

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2020

5 p.m.

DNR Tawes Building, Room C-1, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair T/C
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah L. Cartee
Gloria Chang T/C
Melissa H. Curtin
Eugenia B. Henry T/C
Bonnie N. Luna
Ishrat N. Memon
Patricia M. Lambert T/C
Brenda J. McChriston
Evelyne S. Steward
Tamara E. Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Maureen G. Colburn
Amanda L. Costley
Kristi S. Halford
Lauren M. Lambert
April Nyman
Roberta Pardo
Corinna Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen
Ummu Bradley Thomas
Marylou N. Yam

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Fatara Odifa, Administrative Officer

I. Call to Order.....First Vice Chair Bailey

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by MCW First Vice Chair Bailey. She welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for coming. She acknowledged the dedication of Commissioners Henry and Yang for calling into the meeting even though they are both traveling overseas at the time.)

B. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Bailey called for approval of the agenda. Second Vice Chair Sepe moved approval. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was tabled until a quorum could be established.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Bailey

A. Introduction of New Staff

Administrative Officer Fatara Odifa was introduced to the commissioners. She was hired as a temporary part-time employee, and began work in the MCW office on December 27. She has already been of great assistance and was welcomed by the commissioners.

B. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Research Project

Second Vice Chair Sepe reported that the research firm Psychometric Solutions has submitted drafts of Chapters 1 - 4. The MCW officers and staff will meet with the president of Psychometric Solutions, Dr. Payton, on Wednesday, January 29 1 p.m. to review the work. Any other interested commissioners will be most welcome.

C. Commissioner Terms – Green Bag Appointments

Each year, the Governor submits his appointments to state boards and commissions on the 40th day of the Maryland General Assembly. Dating back to 17th-century England, the term “Green Bag” refers to the green satchel that is used once every year to bring the gubernatorial nominations to the Senate. It is a longstanding tradition for a member of the governor’s staff to deliver the bag to the Senate, where the appointments will be considered for confirmation in hearings before the Senate Executive Appointments Committee before the end of this year’s MGA session. Five Commissioners current terms will be complete at the end of June: Commissioners Bailey, Cartee, Nyman, Thomas and Wilson. Three, Commissioners Bailey, Cartee and Wilson, have requested appointment to a second term. The Commission currently has two other vacant positions.

III. Unfinished Business

A. CFW Roundtable Meeting at the MLAW Conference

MLAW held its annual Fall Conference on November 23 at the Chesapeake Arts Center, in Brooklyn Park. MCW invited all the county and city Commissions for Women in the state to send up to two representatives to the CFW Roundtable Meeting as our guests at this conference and to convene afterwards for a roundtable discussion of issues specific to Commissions for Women. Twenty-five women representing nine jurisdictions participated in the Roundtable Meeting: Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s Counties, as well as the Maryland Commission, all sent representatives. This year, for the first time, several other women who were not Commissioners, including a State Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly, asked to observe the meeting. In a conversation facilitated by MCW Chair Yang, the Commissioners discussed the top priorities and challenges for their Commissions this year, and which of their initiatives had the most impact. Commissioner Yang also shared plans for the 2020 Women’s Centennial Summit and invited the other Commissions to join us in sponsoring the event. Commissioner Pardo presented information about the March 19 Women’s Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony, inviting all in attendance to join us there. Vice Chair Tawanda Bailey provided an update on the Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) research project and Vice Chair Carole Jaar Sepe invited the other Commissions to share information with us for inclusion in the 2020 Suffrage Commemoration Events Calendar the MCW is posting on its website. In addition, the 2020WED coordinator asked to present information about a statewide celebration of the centennial anniversary inviting the Commissions to participate by organizing local events in their jurisdictions on the weekend before the actual Women’s Equality Day. The meeting closed with the announcement of NACW’s Voices of Women in America survey, encouraging all the CFWs to encourage women in their communities to participate. Commissioners Ishrat Memon and Melissa Curtin also participated in the roundtable meeting.

B. Howard County CFWCurtin

The Howard County CFW invited the MCW commissioners who live in that county to attend its December 10 meeting at 7 p.m. in Columbia. Commissioners Curtin, Memon and Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended. A briefing on the MCW's current projects and initiatives was presented and a discussion of how the two commissions for women can work together followed. All in attendance agreed that it was an excellent opportunity to build and strengthen MCW relationships with other CFWs in the state.

C. WED2020 Campaign.....Steward

The MCW has signed on as to the campaign at the "Encouragement" level meaning that the MCW will help publicize events organized as part of the initiative to have local celebrations, free and open to the public, in parks across the state on the weekend before the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

D. 2020 Events Calendar.....Sepe

The MCW agreed at its October meeting to develop and maintain a calendar of all the known scheduled events in Maryland related to the commemoration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. With the new staff's help, the calendar has been initiated and posted on the MCW website, with a banner on the homepage linking to the calendar. So far, 11 events have been posted. More will be added throughout the year.

IV. New Business

No new business was brought before the commission.

V. Committee Reports

A. PAL (Policy and Legislation) Committee.....Bresnahan

The start of the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session is moving fast and furious. So far well over 400 bills have been introduced and hearings are being scheduled fast and furious.

General Assembly Changes: We have seen notable changes in the presiding officers. A new Senate President was elected for the first time in more than 30 years and two African-American women were elected to lead the House.

Senator Bill Ferguson (Baltimore City) was elected President and **Senator Melony Griffith (Prince George's)** was elected President Pro Tem. Senate appointments by President Ferguson are as follows. The new Budget and Taxation Chairman will be Senator Guy Guzzone (**Howard County**) and Senator Jim Rosapepe (**Prince George's County**) was appointed Vice Chairman of Budget and Taxation. Because of the retirement of Senator Shirley Nathan Pulliam (**Baltimore County**), Senator Cheryl Kagan (**Montgomery County**) will serve as vice chair of the Senate Education Health and the Environment Committee. The Judicial Proceedings (JPR) Committee will also see changes in leadership with the retirement of Senator Bobby Zirkin (**Baltimore County**). Senator Will Smith (**Montgomery County**) was appointed Chairman of JPR and Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (**Montgomery County**) was appointed vice chairman.

In the House of Delegates, **Delegate Adrienne Jones (Baltimore County)** was elected Speaker and **Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes (Wicomico County)** was elected Speaker Pro Tem.

In addition, Governor Hogan has appointed **Delegate Charles Sydnor (Baltimore County)** to fill the Baltimore City and County district 44 Senate seat vacated by **Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (Baltimore County)** who has retired. The Governor has also appointed **Mike Griffith (Harford/Cecil Counties)** to represent district 35B in Harford and Cecil Counties, replacing **Delegate Andrew Cassilly** who has joined the Governor's office. There will be announcements in the near future about replacements for the Senate seat in Baltimore County's district 11 that had been held by **Senator Bobby Zirkin**, the House of Delegates seat vacated by now-**Senator Sydnor**, and the seat in Baltimore City's district 45 vacated by **Delegate Cheryl Glenn (Baltimore City)** in a recent resignation. The Baltimore City Democratic Central Committee has nominated **Chanel Branch** for Glenn's seat.

Governor Hogan has two weeks to decide if he will approve her nomination. Gov. Larry Hogan also has appointed Carl Jackson and Cathi Forbes to fill two vacant Baltimore County seats in Maryland's House of Delegates. Baltimore County Democrats recommended Jackson to fill the District 8 seat in Northeast Baltimore County vacated by Eric Bromwell, while Forbes will fill the District 42A seat in the Towson area formerly held by Stephen Lafferty. Both Bromwell and Lafferty resigned from the General Assembly to join Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr.'s administration.

Governor Hogan named Nicole Williams to the House of Delegates replacing Prince George's County Delegate Tawanna Gaines. The Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee recommended Williams for the seat in the 22nd District. The district includes communities of Greenbelt, Hyattsville, New Carrollton and Riverdale.

House Speaker Adrienne Jones has made some new leadership appointments. They include:

- ◆ Delegate Bonnie Cullison (Montgomery County) as Deputy Speaker Pro Tem
- ◆ Delegate Diana Fennell (Prince George's County) as Assistant Speaker Pro Tem
- ◆ Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (Montgomery County) as Parliamentarian
- ◆ Delegate Michael Jackson (Prince George's County) as Appropriations Vice Chairman
- ◆ Delegate Marvin Holmes (Prince George's County) as Rules and Executive Nominations Vice Chair
- ◆ Delegate Alonzo Washington (Prince George's County) as Ways and Means Vice Chairman
- ◆ Delegate Andrea Harrison (Prince George's County) as Protocol Committee Chairman
- ◆ Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith (Prince George's County) as Spending Affordability Committee Chairman
- ◆ Senate President Ferguson made the following appointment:
- ◆ Senator Ron Young (Frederick) as Chair of Executive Nominations Committee
- ◆ Senator Joanne Benson (Prince George's) as Chair of Senate Rules Committee

At its April 2019 meeting, the Commission voted to support the bills it supported in 2019 that did not pass if they are reintroduced again in 2020 with generally the same provisions. Those issues were:

- Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape & Sexual Offenses*
- Discrimination in Employment - Pregnancy & Childbirth*
- Child Support for Post Secondary Education*
- Salary Information Disclosures*

- Human Trafficking Vacating Convictions*
- Prerelease Unit for Women*

In addition, the PAL Committee recommends adding the following bills to the list of those the MCW will support this year:

- Paid Family Leave
- Making strangulation during a rape a first degree offense
- Teen “Sexting”

Legislation addressing some of these issues has already been introduced in 2020 including:

- HB 123/SB 217 Labor Employment Wage History & Wage Range
- SB 210 Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape and Sexual Offenses
- SB 212 Criminal Law - Assault in the First Degree - Suffocation or Strangulation

B. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition Ceremony) Committee.....Cartee

Both Selection Committees met on December 3 in Annapolis to make their final recommendations for Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow honorees. Five extraordinary women will be inducted into the Hall of Fame: community activist Victorine Q. Adams (posthumous); attorney and civil rights advocate Evelyn Olivia Addison Darden; climate change scientist Dr. Claire Parkinson; astronomer and “Mother of the Hubble Telescope” Dr. Nancy Grace Roman (posthumous); and women’s and human rights activist Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe (posthumous). In addition, five outstanding young women have been selected for the Women of Tomorrow Awards: Jessica Holloway of Montgomery County, Laurelle Maubert of Frederick County, Carolyn Pascal of Frederick County, Amulya Puttaraju of Montgomery County and Dataya Resenois of Calvert County. The Induction and Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020; program at 4 – 6 p.m. and reception at 6 – 7:30 p.m., in the Miller Senate Office Building. Commissioners were asked to sign up for “day of” tasks for the ceremony. The next meeting (conference call) of the ARC Committee is January 15.

C. 2020 Women’s Centennial Summit.....Steward

The Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020 in the House Office Building (HOB) with Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones presenting the keynote address. Commissioners Henry, Steward and Yang spent the day in Annapolis on December 19, visiting the HOB, meeting with a caterer whom has now been selected as the vendor for this event, and visiting Government House. The Committee is very pleased to announce to the Commission that the Governor and First Lady have agreed to host a reception at the end of the conference at Government House. (The Foundation for the MCW will cover the costs.) It is planned that there will be an opening plenary session with the keynote speaker, and then two breakout sessions featuring a total of eight seminars. One seminar in each session will focus on young women. Over lunch, MCW Chair Yang will present a briefing on the SWIM Report. Next month, the planning committee will turn its attention to planning the seminars.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the MCW.....Steward
Sponsorship brochures for the 2020 Centennial Summit were included in the packets for tonight's meeting. CFWs in Maryland have been offered a special sponsorship level and already two, Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties, have signed on. Westat Corporation has contributed a \$2020 sponsorship and the Maryland Women's Heritage Center has committed to a \$5100 sponsorship. The Foundation hopes to raise \$40,000 to \$50,000 to support the Summit and future MCW programs and hopes the commissioners will help with outreach to potential sponsors. Staff was asked to send the sponsorship brochure to Commissioners electronically. The Honor a Woman campaign will launch soon and commissioners were encouraged to consider participating.

B. Maryland Women's Heritage Center.....Yang
No report as the Board meeting this month was cancelled.

C. 19th Amendment Commemoration CommissionThomas and Steward
No report.

D. MLAW.....Curtin
MCW was a "Gold Sponsor" of MLAW's annual Fall Conference on November 23 at the Chesapeake Arts Center. Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Adrienne Jones was the featured speaker. Commissioners Bailey, Sepe, Memon, Pardo, Curtin, and Yang along with MCW staff (Vaughan-Prather and then-volunteer Odifa) attended. At this conference, proposals for legislation the MLAW will support were presented. Since then, the proposals were voted upon by the membership and a nine-item legislative agenda for 2020 resulted, including the following legislation:

- Eliminate Marriage as a Defense to Sex Crimes
- Sexual Solicitation of a Minor
- Strangulation-First Degree Assault
- Protective Orders-Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses
- Expansion of Maryland's Vacatur Law for Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Background Checks for all Gun Sales in Maryland
- Labor and Employment-Salary History Information Disclosures
- Time to Care-Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program
- Correctional Services-Prerelease Unit for Women-Requirement

Commissioners were encouraged to sign on as individuals to the MLAW Agenda. Staff was asked to send the link for the MLAW sign-on page to all the Commissioners. MLAW is holding its Legislative Briefing and Reception on February 6 but the registration is not yet open. Once it is open, Commissioners wishing to attend will want to sign up immediately as the event fills up quickly.

E. 2020 Women Moving Forward Conference.....Curtin and Bailey
Planning meetings continue for an April 11, 2020 conference in the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women. Vice Chair Bailey attended the planning meeting last month, and Commissioner Curtin attended the planning meeting last night. Commissioner Curtin is co-chairing the planning committee. This year, the conference will return to its full-day schedule designed to help women who are within a year of release, prepare to successfully re-enter their family, work and community.

F. Maternal Mortality Review Board.....Costley
No report as Commissioner Costly is sick and unable to attend this evening's meeting.

G. Maryland Women's History Museum.....Luna
Commissioner Luna has scheduled a meeting with Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin, founder of the initiative to establish the museum, and will report on that next month.

H. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley
No report as Commissioner Costly is sick and unable to attend this evening's meeting.

I. Women's Legislative Briefing..... Vaughan-Prather for Colburn
The Briefing will be held Sunday, January 26, 2020 at the Universities at Shady Grove. Commissioners Yang, Sepe, Memon, Curtin, and Chang are registered to attend. All have volunteered to help "staff" the MCW's exhibit table there. The MCW is a "Level 4 (\$125) Community Sponsor" of this event. Commissioner Bresnahan is a panelist representing AARP in one of the seminars.

VII. Staff Report.....Vaughan-Prather

A. MCW Office Staffing

As reported earlier, with the Management Specialist out on extended leave, the office is seriously understaffed. DHS has provided a new, temporary staff position, filled by Fatara Odifa effective December 25, 2019. Even with this half-time support, it is challenging to keep up with all work required of the exceptionally demanding agenda the MCW set for itself for this historic year. Commissioners are asked to give as much lead time as possible for requests and are encouraged to take as active a role as possible in the programs and projects the MCW is undertaking. Commissioners were thanked for all their support and very hard work.

B. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

More than 3500 women have completed the on-line Voices of Women in America survey so far. Maryland is very well represented. Commissioners were encouraged to help with outreach to the many and various communities in which they participate both here and across the country. The MCW Chair and Executive Director have been invited to meet with the Delaware state CFW in Wilmington on March 2 to help develop a listening tour initiative in that state. In addition, the Loudoun County CFW has asked the MCW to share its materials so that it may consider a Listening Tour in that Virginia county as well.

C. MCW Website Updates

With the new staff's assistance, the home page of the MCW website has been updated to feature banners connecting to information about the 2020 Events Calendar, the Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow Ceremony and the Centennial Summit.

VIII. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Dates

- WLB – January 26
- MLAW Reception & Briefing – February 6
- Executive Committee: Conference call on February 13 at 4:30 p.m.
- **MCW Meeting: February 20 at 5 p.m.**

IX. Adjournment.....Bailey
The vice chair thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women
APPROVED: February 20, 2020